

## Cheysson to discuss W. Bank exports

TEL AVIV (AP) — A high-ranking European Common Market official arrives in Israel on Saturday for talks expected to focus on a decision to allow direct agricultural exports from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to Europe. Claude Cheysson, the Common Market commissioner for Mediterranean policy, will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres during his four-day visit. An Israeli government official Friday criticised the Common Market position on direct exports, saying it was motivated by political, not economic considerations. Under the current system, Israel controls the export of agricultural products from the occupied territories to the Common Market. In December 1986, the Common Market decided that exports from the occupied territories be given the same preference as products from Israel and the Arab states in the Middle East. Israel has agreed in principle to establish a company in the occupied territories to coordinate such exports, but a foreign ministry official said technical and political problems had yet to be solved.

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## Carbomb in Kabul kills 27

MOSCOW (R) — A car bomb exploded in the Afghan capital Kabul on Thursday evening, killing 27 people and injuring 35. The Soviet news agency TASS said on Friday, TASS, quoting the Afghan news agency Bektar, said the bomb was planted by "counter-revolutionaries" of rebels fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government. It said the toll was particularly high because the bomb had been planted in a heavily built-up residential area. TASS said the bomb exploded near the Sharur mosque in central Kabul. It said nearby buildings sustained heavy damage, but gave no further details. The bomb was the first devastating reported rebel attack in Kabul since Afghan leader Najibullah announced a "national reconciliation" plan at the start of the year intended to end eight years of war between guerrillas and the Soviet-backed Afghan army. Mr. Najibullah declared a unilateral ceasefire, but the rebels rejected it and have continued fighting, aided by supplies of advanced Western weaponry including U.S.-made Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

## Kibli arrives here tomorrow

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab League Secretary General Chadli Kibli is due here on Sunday for talks with senior Jordanian officials to follow up arrangements for holding the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held here on Nov. 8, according to Al Munsef Al Mai, an advisor to the Arab League secretary general and director of the League's information department. Mr. Mai arrived here on Thursday heading an Arab League delegation. In an arrival statement, he also paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein's efforts and his successful contacts with Arab leaders regarding preparations for the summit.

## Iraq says no new meeting with Syria

SHARJAH (AP) — A high-level Iraqi-Syrian meeting was held last weekend along the border between the two states, according to reports here Friday. The Sharjah-based newspaper, Al Khaleej, quoted reliable Arab sources as saying the Saturday meeting was "at a higher than ministerial level," but declined to identify the participants. Later in the day, the political commentator of the Iraqi News Agency denied the report of fresh reconciliation meetings with Syria as "baseless and absurd." The commentator advised Arab news media "not to involve itself in such imaginary stories."

## Arab envoys lodge complaint with Vienna

VIENNA (R) — Arab ambassadors to Austria complained on Friday that Vienna was being used as a transit point for Iranian Jews emigrating to Israel. The Arab League said in a statement that ambassadors would take up the issue with Austrian government, adding that "this development had dangerous results for the Arab side and Arab interests." Austrian Minister Alois Mock told U.S. Jewish leaders during a visit to New York last week that Austria had given asylum to over 5,000 Iranian Jews in recent years. He said they were free to choose where they would settle.

## U.N. Command lodges formal protest over Korean incident

SEOUL (AP) — The American-led United Nations Command (UNC) on Friday accused North Korea of sinking a South Korean fishing boat in international waters and demanded that those responsible for the attack be punished. U.S. Rear Admiral William T. Pendley, in his capacity as senior UNC member to the Korean military armistice commission, made the charge and demand in a letter to his North Korean counterpart, Major-General Li Tae-Ho. According to Pyongyang's Radio broadcast monitored in Tokyo, North Korea has requested that a meeting of the commission, a watchdog of the 1953 Korean armistice agreement, be held on Oct. 14. Seoul government officials said earlier North Korean warship attacked and sank a South Korean fishing boat in international waters in the Yellow Sea before dawn Wednesday.

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## Parliament reconvenes today with King's speech from throne

By Rana Sabbagh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Parliament reconvenes today after a three-month summer recess with a speech from the throne by His Majesty King Hussein outlining Jordan's local, pan-Arab and international policies and stands vis-a-vis the latest developments in the Middle East.

Officials said the King's speech would also deal with the government's socio-economic and political achievements and present an evaluation of the Kingdom's 1986-1990 development plan for the East and West Banks.

The outcome of His Majesty's recent talks with Gulf Arab leaders on prospects for convening the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Amman on Nov. 8 and preparations for the summit are also expected to be covered in the King's speech.

In addition, the speech will

focus on the recent developments in the Iran-Iraq war and efforts to end the seven-year-old conflict as well as the Kingdom's bid to secure a just and durable settlement to the Middle East conflict.

More than 1,500 invitation cards for the inauguration ceremony have been sent out to senior civil and military officials, leading Jordanian personalities and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps in Amman.

Jordan television will make a live broadcast of the opening of Parliament and Radio Jordan will air the King's speech on its Arabic news programme.

Following the formal opening by the King, both the Upper and Lower Houses will meet in separate sessions to elect two committees to draw the two Houses' replies to the King's speech. In addition, the Lower House will also elect a speaker during its Saturday's session.

The two Houses will also elect members to their respective financial, legal, administrative and foreign affairs committees.

In line with the Lower House's tradition, Abdulla Kleib Al Shraideh (Irbid), the oldest deputy, will preside over Saturday's session until a speaker is elected. The newly-elected speaker takes over the remaining session, which usually ends with naming the House's permanent council members.

Both chambers, in the next four months, will deal with more than 100 laws. Some of the legislations are new ones while others are amendments to existing laws.

Among the most important laws to be handled by the two Houses is legislating an agreement to set up the joint Al Wahda dam with Syria. The accord for the high dam project was signed in early September.

## U.S. helicopters sink three Iranian gunboats; Tehran warns of 'another Vietnam'

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — U.S. helicopter gunships sank three Iranian gunboats in the Gulf Thursday night and Iran warned on Friday America was facing "another Vietnam" and that the strategic way would be plunged "into flames" unless foreign navies withdrew from the region.

Tehran also admitted Friday that its forces were again caught off guard by super-secret American helicopters that sank three speedboats in the second major U.S.-Iran clash in three weeks in the Gulf.

The United States said its helicopters attacked only because the Iranian boats fired at them, but Iran claimed it was an unprovoked attack.

Accusing the United States of an unprovoked "open military action," Tehran also said a U.S. helicopter was shot down and a warship damaged in a 20-minute encounter, but the United States flatly denied the claim.

"We have no warships damaged and we have no helicopters missing," said Lieutenant Com-

mander Chris Bauman, a Pentagon spokesman. A U.S. military source here had earlier denied the claim, calling it "greatly exaggerated."

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Iran "urged" Washington to "hand back immediately" six Iranians captured after the Thursday night incident.

U.S. officials, in an updated report, said of the six rescued, two had died and the four others were being given medical treatment, including surgery in some cases.

John Head, a U.S. military spokesman here, said the wounded Iranians were aboard the U.S. Navy landing ship Raleigh. U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar

Weinberger told a television interviewer in Washington that two Iranian boats had been recovered, both of them Boston Whaler type craft.

Others involved were reported to be the fast Swedish-built Bogaström craft, commonly used by Iran's Revolutionary Guards for attacks on neutral shipping in the Gulf.

While Iran did not clearly con-

cede the loss of the three boats, it

said 12 people were aboard them

and implied that six were still

missing. It said two other boats

had been recovered.

Tehran Radio quoted Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati as telling U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar the United States was to blame for starting a war, and demanding withdrawal of foreign forces from the Gulf.

The radio did not say whether Iran now considers itself at war with the United States.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran hereby declares that the responsibility for the start of an all-out war and the very dangerous consequences of the violation of in-

ternational laws in the region rests on the shoulders of the USA," the message said.

"The intensification of America's policies of baring its teeth and claws in the Persian Gulf region clearly shows that the region is on the verge of turning into another Vietnam and that this military aggression will ultimately drag the whole region into flames and the war will go on for years."

"The only way to prevent the intensification of tension is the immediate withdrawal of forces belonging to foreign countries from the waters of the Persian Gulf."

About 80 warships are now or soon to be deployed in the Gulf region, some 30 of them American.

The latest clash followed by 17 days the American helicopter attack on the Iran Ajr, a 1,655-tonne landing craft that was caught laying mines in the central Gulf, some 200 kilometres farther south.

U.S. officials said on Thursday night that American forces

(Continued on page 3)

## Amal and PLO clash again in S. Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Fighting erupted between Palestinian fighters and Amal militia gunmen near the South Lebanon port of Sidon on Friday despite a Syrian-sponsored peace pact.

Police and militia sources told Reuters the two sides had exchanged fire repeatedly since early morning and had built new fortifications, defying an agreement to end a three-year "campus war" in which about 2,500 people have been killed.

Syrian officials brokered the peace accord, which was to have gone into effect four days ago.

The sources said at least four fighters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were wounded in the latest battles.

They also said Palestinian fighters had occupied new positions at Baysour and Muhabbiye villages and the Amal militia was also setting up new fortifications.

"The Palestinians are trying to protect their refugee camps and ensure they hold favourable ground when the agreement comes into force," one Palestinian source said.

A naval spokesman insisted that Palestinian forces held high ground around "Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh Mieh refugee camps — positions seized in savage hand-to-hand encounters 11 months ago — should withdraw to the camps.

Palestinians say a withdrawal to the teeming camps would make them vulnerable, particularly to raids by Israeli warplanes which periodically strike Palestinian targets.

Nazih Bezri, a parliamentarian from Sidon, urged the rival forces to exercise self-restraint. "The new Palestinian extension is the last thing we expected," he told reporters.

Amal fighters still maintain a partial siege of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon following sporadic battles which reduced two Beirut shantytowns to ruins.

## Gorbachev, reiterating total support for 598, calls for Gulf ceasefire

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on Friday renewed a call for a ceasefire in the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq and the withdrawal of all foreign warships from the region.

"We fully support U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 in all its parts and the efforts of the U.N. secretary general," the official news agency TASS quoted Mr. Gorbachev as saying in a message to the Security Council.

The United States and five Western allies — Britain, France, Italy, Belgium and The Netherlands — are massing some 80 warships in the region to protect its seafarers against Iranian threats that include hit-and-run raids on neutral commercial ships and mine-laying. The warships include minesweepers.

The largest contingent of the warship buildup is from the United States, numbering about 30 vessels. The Soviet Union has about eight naval ships in the area.

Mr. Gorbachev expressed belief that "there is a real opportunity to put an end to the Gulf war" through the Security Council motion.

He made no reference to the latest developments in the Gulf where the United States says its helicopter gunships sank three Iranian patrol boats on Thursday, after the boats fired on a U.S. observation helicopter over international waters.

The Abu Dhabi newspaper Al Ittihad quoted Mr. Perez de Cuellar Thursday as saying he would not visit the Gulf at present for talks with Iraq and Iran, but would instead ask both parties to send delegates to New York for negotiations after he receives instructions from the Security Council.

He said he would not leave the U.N. headquarters due to his heavy commitments there.

The U.N. chief described the current situation in the Gulf as one of "wait and see."

He reportedly had been planning a second visit to the region following his six-day trip to Baghdad and Tehran last month seeking implementation of Resolution 598.

The five permanent members of the Security Council are reviewing ideas for a new bid by Mr. Perez de Cuellar to implement proposals to end the Gulf war, "U.N. diplomats said Thursday.

They said delegates of the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain and China hoped to agree shortly on guidelines that would permit the secretary general to resume negotiations with Iran and Iraq.

The official Libyan news agency JANA, monitored in Beirut, quoted Col. Qadhafi as telling Mr. Gorbachev in a cable: "The people of the world do not accept that the Soviet Union stand idly by in the face of dangerous U.S. policies which are threatening the life of all peaceful peoples..."

the 15-nation council, Britain's Sir Crispin Tickell has prepared a working paper on the question, diplomats said.

A British official said this should not be termed a "British proposal." The ideas would be submitted to Mr. Perez de Cuellar if all five permanent members agreed on them.

Diplomatic sources said there was no mention in the paper of a possible arms embargo, which the United States and Britain have been urging the council to impose against Iran if it refuses to accept Resolution 598.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said on Thursday an arms embargo would have a significant effect on Iran but he denied the United States was considering a naval blockade to enforce such an embargo.

"There hasn't been any discussion of a unilateral blockade by the United States or something like that," he said, denying a recent published report.

Mr. Shultz spoke to private citizens described by the U.S. Information Agency as leading opinion makers from 34 countries. They were in Washington as members of a new international council intended to provide USIA with foreign perceptions about U.S. policies and actions.

Mr. Shultz admitted that even if an arms embargo is enacted, "there are lots of ways to get to Iran other than through the Persian Gulf, so arms will."

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi meanwhile accused the Soviet Union on Friday of negligence in failing to press the United States to stop what he termed aggression against Iran.

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Under a compromise worked out in U.S.-Soviet talks here last month, the 72 Pershing-1A missiles would not be included in a

## Japan approves \$300m soft loan for Jordan

By Salameh B. Ne'matt  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japan has approved a \$300 million soft loan for Jordan's economic development as part of a package of assistance measures that includes \$200 million for Oman to help the safety of commercial navigation in the Gulf and to promote stability of the Middle East region, the Japanese embassy said Friday.

The Japanese government also agreed to set aside up to \$10 million of a recent \$20 million donation to the United Nations for Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's mediation efforts in the Gulf, the Japanese embassy confirmed.

"The Japanese government took the decision (on the package) as a measure for the safety of navigation in the Gulf and the stability of the region," Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Akira Nakayama told the Jordan Times.

The ambassador said that the package to Jordan consisted of "soft loans with easy repayment terms," and explained that Japan's contribution was not part of a much-heralded Marshall plan.

The latest clash followed by 17 days the American helicopter attack on the Iran Ajr, a 1,655-tonne landing craft that was caught laying mines in the central Gulf, some 200 kilometres farther south.

U.S. officials said on Thursday night that American forces

(Continued on page 3)

tion Council countries and beneficiaries in the region," It said that the assistance would contribute to "installing high accuracy radio aids to navigation systems in the Gulf."

The statement said "the economic development of the Gulf and its neighbouring region is an indispensable element for the peace of the region."

It said that Tokyo would also "extend its maximum cooperation to both Iran and Iraq for their reconstruction efforts once the conflict is finally resolved."

The

# Reagan withdraws anti-tank missiles from Saudi deal under compromise accord

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan has withdrawn 1,600 anti-tank missiles from a planned arms sale to Saudi Arabia to clear the way for a \$1 billion shipment that faced strong opposition in the U.S. Congress.

But in a written notification to Congress on Thursday, Mr. Reagan said that Saudi Arabia's need for the Maverick air-to-ground missiles would be kept under review and that the United States would provide them to the Saudis from American stocks in the event of an emergency.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole of Kansas told a Capitol Hill news conference he believed the move would allow the Senate to approve the sale of the package's remaining items, including 12 F-15 fighters.

"It will not upset the military balance in the Middle East. It is not a threat to Israel and it helps a friend," Mr. Dole said.

A statement issued by White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the arms sale would include 12 F-15 fighters to be

unprecedented U.S.-Saudi security cooperation."

"These sales are an essential part of the U.S. strategy of protecting U.S. interests, as well as those of our friends, in the Gulf region through security cooperation," he added.

Mr. Dole, along with fellow Republican Rudy Boschwitz of Minnesota and Democrat Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio, said the compromise resulted from consultations between legislators and the White House earlier on the compromise.

They said Mr. Reagan's National Security Adviser Frank Carlucci offered to drop the 1,600 Maverick anti-tank missiles worth \$360 million from the package on Wednesday.

"There will not be a battle on the floor of the Senate," Mr. Metzenbaum said. "We are pleased there will not be a confrontation between the Congress and the president."

Mr. Dole added: "I think it's probably going to be approved."

## Hopes renewed for French hostages in Lebanon

PARIS (R) — Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond visits Damascus on Saturday, ending a freeze on high-level contacts and seeking Syrian help to secure the release of French hostages in Lebanon.

Diplomats said Mr. Raimond's two-day trip marked a return to normal relations after France joined its European Community (EC) partners last November in imposing sanctions against Syria for its alleged involvement in "terrorism" in Western Europe.

France has long sought Syrian help to gain freedom for five Frenchmen kidnapped in Lebanon between 1983 and 1986 by militants loyal to Iran, which has no diplomatic ties with France.

How to obtain their release

would be one of the main issues Mr. Raimond would raise with his counterpart Farouq Al Sharif, the diplomats said.

France, which regards Syria as a key power in the Middle East, raised no objections when Syrian forces entered Beirut in strength to try and restore order last February.

Mr. Raimond is only the second EC foreign minister to visit Damascus since British and West German courts implicated Syrian agents in attacks in London and West Berlin last year.

Syria has since closed the Damascus office of Palestinian extremist Abu Nidal.

In the ensuing thaw, Syria helped with the release of a West German and an American kid-

napped in Beirut. The United States called for improved relations and the Greek foreign minister visited Damascus earlier this year.

Mr. Raimond has said he is sure Syria would do what it could to help gain the release of the five hostages, two of whom are diplomats.

In a daily reminder to the government, one French television channel begins every major news bulletin with a hostage update, saying how long each has been held.

France and Iran broke off relations on July 17 in a crisis sparked by French demands to question Wahid Gordji, an Iranian embassy interpreter in Paris suspected of directing terrorist attacks.

## Tunisia, ignoring threats, hangs 2 fundamentalists

TUNIS (Agencies) — Two Muslim fundamentalists were hanged at dawn Thursday after President Habib Bourguiba ignored appeals for a pardon and threats that Tunisian leaders would be killed if the death sentences were carried out.

The Justice Ministry said Mehrez Boudega, 25, and Boulaiba Dekhil, 24, were executed at the Tunis prison where they had been held.

The two were condemned to death Sept. 27 following a month-long trial of 90 fundamentalists, mostly members of the outlawed Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI). All were accused of trying to topple Mr. Bourguiba's government and replace it with an Islamic state.

Five others were sentenced to death, but they are among 37 accused who were tried in absentia.

Within hours of the verdict by a state security court, the Lebanon-based Islamic Jihad (Holy War)

prime minister.

In a further move emphasising the importance attached to security, Mr. Bourguiba last week appointed his former minister of state for the interior, Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali, as prime minister.

Security in Tunis has been tight since the state security court passed sentence on Sept. 27 at the end of the month-long trial. Troops, police and helicopters have been on patrol.

Similar threats from other pro-Islamic groups followed that of Islamic Jihad, which holds American and French hostages. The Hezbollah (Party of God), in Lebanon, promised a "sweeping storm" if the condemned were executed.

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## King receives new envoys' credentials

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has received the credentials of four new ambassadors to Jordan. The ambassadors are: from Cyprus, Nicolas Makris; from the U.S., Roscoe Suddarth; from Canada, Michael Bell; and from Brunei, Datu Leila Gassri.

## Crown Prince views military field exercises

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan watched military exercises performed by troops of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division.

During the Thursday visit to the division, Prince Hassan was also briefed on the various training programmes of the troops and

watched army helicopters providing support for the ground forces in the exercises, in which live ammunition was employed.

Senior army officers accompanied the Crown Prince on his tour of the fields and in watching the exercises.

## Princess Basma attends Maan children's festival

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma patronised a children's festival held in Maan on the occasion of Arab and International Child Day.

The Thursday festival included performances of national songs and dances by children, plays, musical concerts, book exhibitions, and an exhibit of children's costumes. The event was organised by the Queen Alia Social

Welfare Fund, whose president is Princess Basma, in cooperation with the Jordanian Save the Children Fund.

Another children's exhibition was held in Aqaba on Thursday for the same occasion. In another activity marking Arab Child Day, teams from the charitable and voluntary societies in the country toured hospitals and charity centres carrying gifts to children.

## One-man play depicts author's tortuous decline into insanity

By Meg Abu Hamdan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Eight years before he died in a mental hospital at the age of 53, the famous French author, Guy De Maupassant wrote the story of his own death with uncanny precision. "Le Horla," Maupassant's astonishing account of a man's tortuous decline into schizophrenia has now been dramatised and is being performed at the French Cultural Centre, tonight, Saturday, Oct. 10.

Of all Maupassant's 300 short stories, "Le Horla" is considered by many to be his most important because it was a work that, for the first time in 19th century French literature, dealt with insanity frankly and without reticence. Written in the form of a diary, in which Maupassant incorporates the real, clinical results of some experiments being carried out at a hospital where he attended lectures on the subject, "Le Horla" describes, in frightening detail, his growing madness.

In the one-man show, which is developed from and remains faithful to the text, the author of the dairies — Maupassant — is played by French actor Jean-Paul Schintu. Slowly we "see" an invisible being take over his life — an invisible being who drinks his water, picks his flowers, reads his books. The narrator calls him "Le Horla" — "the nocturnal brother, the twin who creeps his way into the deepest parts of our minds." As the being becomes more and more unbearably invasive, the narrator, in a final attempt to free himself, sets fire to his house. But, as he stands watching the blaze, he feels something fall over him...

"Le Horla" was first performed at the L'Escalier d'Or in Paris, and, at that time, both the play, adapted and directed by Serge Lascar, and Jean-Paul Schintu received highly favourable reviews. Antoine Spire

wrote, "A multiform actor, Jean-Paul Schintu plays simultaneously the madman and every one of interlocutors with an impressive verve and dynamism," while Gerard-Henri Durand and Mireille Lepinsais wrote, "He is alone on the stage...doubting, worrying, and we follow him through his torments from beginning to end. We are taken by his anguish, we laugh with him, we shiver with him. We follow him against our will, we are ourselves possessed by the Horla."

Jean-Paul Schintu, a graduate of the National Conservatory in Paris, established, along with two fellow actors, Scotto and Feldmann, L'Escalier d'Or seven years ago. Based in a former newspaper building in the centre of Paris, and run on a government grant, L'Escalier d'Or's special mission was to promote new authors and playwrights — a group of people Schintu believes "are not helped enough." Over the years the company put on productions that both failed and succeeded, among the latter were such plays as "Le Vieux du Bonheur," by Michel Viala; "Chouki et Louki sont sur un Bateau," by Denise Chabieu and "Chez Pierrot," by J.G. Grinberg.

Six weeks ago, due to a change in government grant allocations, L'Escalier d'Or was forced to close, but not before the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs had commissioned Jean-Paul Schintu to tour with "Le Horla." Before coming to Jordan, Schintu has performed this very taxing play in Australia, Thailand, Indonesia, India, the United Arab Emirates and Syria. His next stop before home will be Egypt. In the next year, Schintu will be taking the play to England and Poland.

Opportunities to see this kind of "troupe" theatre do not happen to Amman often, and, as such, should not be missed. The play, which is being staged in the hall of the French Cultural Centre, begins at 8:00 p.m.

## U.S. helicopters sink 3 Iranian gunboats in Gulf

(Continued from page 1) attacked the Iranian speedboats after they fired on a U.S. helicopter.

It was the first confrontation in the international waterway in which Iranians were reported to have fired on U.S. forces.

The sinking of the three Iranian vessels was expected to increase demands in the U.S. Senate for a stronger congressional role in U.S. policy in the Gulf. The Pentagon said that in the Thursday clash an observation helicopter called for help after three or four Iranian gunboats opened fire on it shortly before 10 p.m. local time (1900 GMT) about 25 kilometres southwest of Iran's Farsi Island, a base for Iranian Revolutionary Guard gunboats.

U.S. MH-6 attack helicopters, manned by special army teams, responded with machine gun and rocket fire.

"The boats were destroyed," Defence Department spokesman Fred Hoffman told reporters. "The firing on a U.S. helicopter was clearly a hostile act."

IRNA denied the speedboats

had fired first before they were subjected to "a savage U.S. attack."

It was not known how many Iranians were on board the boats, which usually carry a crew of five or six.

No Americans were reported injured in the incident.

IRNA said the Iranian boats were on routine patrol when the attack occurred. It said an unnamed official "totally rejected a U.S. claim that the Iranian boats had first fired at the American helicopters and said it was just the opposite."

It quoted the military official as saying the two speedboat crews who escaped reported that "they did not know in the beginning that they had been attacked by U.S. helicopters."

He said that although "Iran's Muslim combatants... did not expect such an attack, (they) immediately responded by attacking the U.S. helicopters."

"Our men are not required to be hit before they respond," Mr. Weinberger said.

The confrontation marked the first time Iranian military forces had opened fire on a U.S. ship or

aircraft. In last month's attack on the Iran Air that later was scuttled by U.S. authorities, the vessel was attacked after it was detected laying mines and it never fired at U.S. aircraft.

Mr. Weinberger denied assertions by Iran that U.S. forces had fired first in the latest incident, but acknowledged the United States could not prove that.

"We don't have the absolutely conclusive evidence that we did when (Iranian crew) men were seen pushing mines into the sea," Mr. Weinberger said.

In a separate incident, the Pentagon said another U.S. military helicopter flying in the southern Gulf on Thursday reported gunshots being fired from an Iranian oil rig. In that case, however, the Pentagon said it was unclear whether the Iranians were firing at the Americans and thus the helicopter left the area without returning fire.

A Japanese-owned tanker, hit by an Iranian attack boat off the Saudi Arabian coast on Thursday, was anchored outside Bahrain with an unexploded warhead lodged in its engine room.

## Hamzeh announces decisions of health panels in Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh announced that a regional symposium will be held in Amman early next year to discuss family planning issues and ways of providing better care to mothers and children.

The minister was speaking on Thursday following his return here from Baghdad, where he took part in a meeting of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Committee which, he said, decided to hold next year's symposium.

Dr. Hamzeh also attended a meeting of the executive committee of the council of Arab Health

watched army helicopters providing support for the ground forces in the exercises, in which live ammunition was employed.

Senior army officers accompanied the Crown Prince on his tour of the fields and in watching the exercises.

## Economic team promotes trade relations in Indonesia

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian delegation comprised of 14 members representing the private and the public sectors are currently in Indonesia for talks designed to promote Indonesian-Jordanian economic and trade relations.

An official announcement said that the delegation will spend several days meeting Indonesian government officials in charge of trade to discuss increasing the volume of goods exchanged between the two countries, in implementation of a bilateral agreement. The agreement, signed in Amman last July, offers facilities for traders and exporters from both countries to carry out their transactions.

According to official figures from 1985, the bilateral trade

balance was in favour of Jordan, which exported \$30 million worth of products to Indonesia in exchange for \$17 million worth of Indonesian goods.

Jordan's exports to Indonesia are: phosphate, potash, phosphoric acid and raw materials for the fertilisers industry. Indonesian exports to Jordan include sawtimber, plywood, textiles, coffee, meat and canned food.

The delegation in Indonesia represents the sectors which manufacture electric appliances, household items, clothing, spare automobile parts and processed foodstuffs. The Indonesian delegation which visited Jordan in July included 23 industrialists, government officials and bankers.

## Jordan's new ambassador to Great Britain presents credentials to Queen Elizabeth

AMMAN (Petra) — Queen Elizabeth II of England received the credentials of Albert Butros as the Jordanian ambassador to Great Britain.

During the Thursday ceremony, Dr. Butros conveyed to Queen Elizabeth, King Hussein's greetings and appreciation to the King.

Later in the evening, Dr. Butros held a reception which was attended by several high-level officials from Buckingham Palace and the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Participants will also review current training and education opportunities available for handicapped women and young girls, in order to draw up national, regional, social and vocational rehabilitation programmes for handicapped women. The symposium is being held in concordance with recommendations of the United Nations Decade for Women.

Participating in the symposium will be officials from Jordan, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, North Yemen and South Yemen.

The symposium will also try to specify the basic needs of handicapped women in the region, to specify available employment opportunities for them and to study obstacles which impede their training and employment.

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## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Arab resistance continues

THE occupied city of Gaza on Thursday witnessed an all out strike in which the citizens expressed their backing for the resistance and their attacks on the Israeli troops in defence of Arab soil. The attack in which one Israeli officer was killed along with four Palestinian resistance fighters followed a barbaric attack on the part of the Israeli forces against the civilian population in Gaza. The Gazans had no choice but to stand up to the Israeli troops and defend themselves and their property in the face of the Israeli onslaught, which is part of Israel's terrorism against the Arab population under its rule. The Israelis commit a grave blunder if they think that the Palestinian land has become their own and that they can do whatever they like with its people. All indications and evidence before the Israelis show clearly that the Arab people are determined to defend their land and their rights and that the occupiers can never consolidate their hold permanently on the Arab territory. The resistance group which attacked the Israelis dealt with the Israeli forces in a manner that they understand in order to make the Israelis understand that it is time for Jewish state and its allies to stop ill-treating the Palestinian people and occupying their homeland. All Arab countries should indeed come to the aid of their brethren in their fight against the enemy and in their defence of the usurped homeland.

Al Dustour: Iran maintains defiance

DESPITE all the intensive diplomatic efforts at the United Nations and despite the Security Council Resolution 598 which called for a ceasefire in the Gulf conflict, the war is escalating and the Gulf waters are being congested with war ships that do not augur well for the future of the region. There is no doubt that Iran's rejection of the Security Council resolution and its refusal to respond favourably to calls of peace have forced Iraq to step up its shelling of oil installations in Iran and in the Gulf water front has no alternative but to do that in order to deny the Iranian rulers the means for continuing the war against the Arab people. The escalation is bound to open the door wide for the involvement of other parties in the conflict and so endanger the safety and security of the region and the international navigation in general. We hope that the Security Council members will now realise the seriousness of the situation and step up efforts on all fronts to bring a speedy end to the war which has brought about the current dangerous situation. We also hope that the secretary general of the United Nations will renew his mediation efforts for ending the conflict.

Sawt Al Shaab: Iran escalates attacks on civilians

THE Iranian field guns have been pouring fire on Basra and the Iranian missiles have been dropping on Baghdad inflicting casualties on the civilian population. The barbaric attacks have not discouraged the Iraqi people and armed forces from continuing their heroic defence of their land; and the Iraqi forces are continuing to inflict heavy punishment on the aggressors. The Iraqi air force continues to devastate Iranian economic installations in a manner that is designed to weaken the Iranian rulers and their power to continue the war or launch further aggression on the Arab people. Iraq continues to dedicate its potentials and resources and efforts to the defence of the Arab soil and Arab rights and has been offering immense sacrifices towards that end. The Iraqi people are therefore worthy of appreciation and support by the Arab Nation at large and their heroic stand should serve as an excellent example to be followed by Arab people everywhere.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: 'Cities war' intensifies

IN another tragic turn in the on-going Gulf conflict the Iranian regime intensified once again its shelling of civilian areas in Baghdad and Basra, thus triggering another round of what is called "cities war". It is clear that the escalation of the conflict in this manner presents another evidence of Iran's total failure in its war and adventures and repeated setbacks in the battlefield. Following the ignominious defeat at the hand of the Iraqi armed forces, the rulers in Tehran resorted once again to shelling civilian targets, hoping to compensate for their military failures. The "cities war" means clearly that the Iranian regime does not intend to respond favourably to international mediation efforts and put an end to the war with Iraq. It is clear now that Iran refuses all calls to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which demands a ceasefire and negotiations between the two sides to reach a settlement. This attitude should prompt the Security Council to impose sanctions and penalties on the Iranian regime. The Iranian aggression should be clearly understood by the world community as a tragedy for all humanity. The Security Council should act now in order to put an end to Iran's determined attempt to pursue a war of genocide on civilian populations.

Al Dustour: A positive British stand

BRITISH Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's recent statement on the Middle East reflects Britain's very positive stand with regard to the Middle East question in general and the convening of the proposed international conference in particular. His statement manifests London's clear orientation towards the conference which is designed to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. Sir Geoffrey referred in his statement to Israel's practices in the occupied Arab territory and called for safeguarding the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. This is also a very positive stand on the part of Britain towards the Palestinian people and their homeland and should be welcomed by all Arab people. Coming from the foreign minister of a leading member of the European Community, such a statement brings with it additional hope that the Europeans would finally play their long-awaited role in forcing Israel to change its present aggressive policies towards the Arabs. The statement is regarded as reflecting a real development in Britain's attitude towards the Middle East and therefore we hope that it would prompt a real and serious action on the part of Britain and the European Community towards safeguarding the rights of the Arab people.

## VIEW FROM AMMAN

### The peace conference: Linkage between 598 and 242

By Kamel Abu Jaber

WELCOME to President Zia Ul Haq of Pakistan and welcome to his support of Jordan's idea for the convening of an international peace conference to consider an honourable and a permanent resolution of the Palestine problem. In his reply to His Majesty King Hussein's welcoming address, President Zia rightly linked the resolution of the Iran-Iraq conflict with his allusion to convening an international peace conference on Palestine. In both these conflicts, Pakistan can and should play an active role, not only because it is a sisterly Muslim nation, but because it is geographically, ideologically and militarily very highly involved in the affairs of the region. Its proximity to Iran geographically as well as its good relations with it, enhances the necessity of using its good offices to end what President Zia himself called the "internece" conflict. And now that we are trying to have Resolution 598 applied we should not forget the necessity of implementing Resolution 242 however much time and effort this may take.

The Iran-Iraq war is one of the longest sustained battles in history. Its duration is longer than that of each of the two bloodiest international wars of this century: The First and the Second World Wars. In terms of violence and damage, material and human, it is a unique conflict whose psychological impact will reverberate for a very long time to come. Pakistan in particular can and should play a more active role.

President Zia can also play a major role in bringing about the convening of an international conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Pakistan's emergence as a nuclear power, though the president emphasised its peaceful nature, as well as his

friendship and association with Jordan place him in a unique position to play a role in resolving this conflict too. This in spite of Israeli threats and perhaps possible attacks on Pakistani nuclear installations.

The atmosphere for a possible conclusion of both these conflicts is encouraging. First, because of the evident detente between the two superpowers expressed most recently in their intention to conclude a treaty banning intermediate nuclear weapons as well as their support for Resolution 598. Second, because both Iran and Iraq have depleted each other's resources and exhausted their military strength and thus stopped posing any threat now, or for the foreseeable future, to Israel as a Western interest. And third, because there is an Arab consensus, including Iraqi and Palestinian opinion, on the necessity of ending the two conflicts.

And thus while Jordan supports Iraq's efforts, including those of reaching a peaceful resolution of its conflict with Iran, it cannot forget to continue to work towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict with Israel. Jordan's call for an international peace conference comes from its hope that the principle of the exchange of "land for peace" with Israel, as contained in U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967, will be enforced. Only such a formula will make viable the idea of a federation or confederation with the territories occupied by Israel since 1967. Only such a formula can bring about a sense of justice and an atmosphere for peace, not only for the Jordanians and Palestinians but for the Israelis themselves as well. Barring that, all else will be mere temporary arrangements, truces giving impetus to further violence and conflict.

Conflict resolution means that both sides of the conflict are sufficiently satisfied so that they cease hostilities. The truce now with Israel, the quiet, is not peace but an illusion that the Israeli leaders wish to believe is a permanent peace. Mrs. Golda Meir, a former premier of Israel once stated: "The borders of the state of Israel are where the Israeli army stands." Such arrogance — such an historical myth — such wishful thinking, do not make for peace.

Mr. Shamir, the present premier, and from the other major political bloc in Israel, seems to believe Mrs. Meir. Given time, he thinks, the Arabs will come around to agree with his point of view. They won't; not only because they cannot but also because certain historical facts force themselves on certain realities, even those created by Israel. What Mr. Shamir does not understand or perhaps does not wish to understand is that Jordan's insistence on an international conference is not a matter of form but content as well and not just for now but for future generations too. Bilateral negotiations without this cloak of legitimacy will certainly be questioned and contested by some now, and by future generations. Any peace concluded bilaterally will continue to be viewed in the same light that the average Arab views the Sadat-Begin Camp David accords: Hot house agreements concluded under duress. Jordan will not be able to detach itself Sadat fashion not now or in the future. For the people and the territory involved: The Palestinians and Palestine are too intertwined and in a special delicate web not only in the Arab but the Muslim psychology as well. That is what President Zia hoped to convey and that is what King Hussein meant when he kindly referred to the framers as "our brothers."

## Southern African countries mobilise to find new trade routes

By John Morrison

Reuter

HARARE — Efforts by Southern African states to cur their overwhelming dependence on South African transport routes are starting to bear fruit, thanks to big injections of aid from Europe and North America.

Political and business leaders in the region know that the white-ruled government in Pretoria could still paralyse their exports and imports in a confrontation. "We are virtually held as hostages," Botswana's President Quett Masire told Canada's visiting Prime Minister Brian Mulroney early this year.

But there is growing optimism that by the end of the decade a crash programme to rehabilitate Mozambique's ports and railways with Western aid money will have given some of the regional states a reliable alternative route.

Of the nine countries in the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADC), set up in 1980 to reduce dependence on South Africa, six are landlocked — Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Only Tanzania, Angola and Mozambique have access to the sea and the last two's rail links have been disrupted by years of neglect and sabotage by anti-government rebels. The Chinese-built Tanzania-Zambia (Tazara) railroad has long been the only functioning

railroute to the Indian Ocean, taking around 20 per cent of the region's overseas trade, mostly from Zambia.

Angola's Benguela railway, running from the rich mining areas of Zambia and Southern Zaïre to the Atlantic, has been closed for a decade by South African-backed UNITA rebels.

Plans to reopen the Belgian-owned line, 1,350 kilometres long, are bogged down in arguments over its future ownership and protection.

But in the other former Portuguese colony of Mozambique, things are beginning to happen at a speed unusual by the standards of major aid projects involving several countries.

Thanks partly to a Zimbabwean-based ginger group of businessmen, the Beira Corridor Group, 4,500 tonnes of rail freight a day is now being carried between the Tazara line to Da Es Salaam.

The share of trade going through South African ports has fallen from 75 per cent to 58 per cent, he told Reuters in a recent interview.

The group, set up in 1985, has acted as a catalyst in speeding up SADC plans to revive Mozambique's transport routes and persuading foreign donors to hand

over hundreds of millions of dollars in aid.

In the first phase, \$45 million has been spent on rebuilding the rail link and getting port facilities into working order, giving Beira

the annual handling capacity of three million tonnes a year it had in 1975, the year of independence from Portugal.

Getting business to use the route has meant persuading them that the threat from MNR (Mozambican National Resistance) rebels is only a minor irritant.

Zimbabwe has deployed 12,000 troops to help the government fight the MNR and their principal task is to guard the rail, road and pipeline link along the Beira corridor.

In a second phase, more than \$200 million will be spent on modern deep-water berths, a container terminal and other facilities to increase Beira's capacity to five million tonnes a year by

loss of cargo over the past 18 months. Piferage is less than in South Africa," Cross says.

Mozambique has dropped previous attempts to attract trade with moral arguments and is concentrating on making its ports commercially competitive.

Freight tariffs have been lowered so that cargoes from Zimbabwe to southern Africa now cost on average \$400 a tonne less than through the South African port of Durban, according to Jeanne Stephens, a Canadian adviser to the Mozambican ports and railway system.

In a second phase, more than \$200 million will be spent on modern deep-water berths, a container terminal and other facilities to increase Beira's capacity to five million tonnes a year by

1990.

In Maputo port, a \$9 million Italian aid programme has led to dramatic improvements in cargo handling. Forwarding agents say loading rates are now comparable with Durban at 24 containers an hour compared to four in 1984.

Further north, the first trains for four years have recently run on a line that links Malawi to the Mozambican port of Nacala. It was built in 1970 and, like the lines around Maputo, is threatened by the MNR. Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique itself are the countries that stand to gain most if plans to get all Mozambique's main rail links and ports operational by 1990 are successful.

The anti-Communist rebels have also been blamed for blowing up a bridge last month on a second line from Zimbabwe to Maputo which passes through

South Africa.

Business sources in Harare say the attack has effectively cut the line for six weeks, blocking thousands of tonnes of Zimbabwe freight inside South Africa.

Work on reopening the Limpopo from southern Zimbabwe to Maputo is also under way "like a house on fire," according to a senior diplomat in Harare. The line has been badly damaged by the MNR but Zimbabwean railway teams, financed by Britain, are restoring it at the rate of one kilometre a day.

The anti-Communist rebels have also been blamed for blowing up a bridge last month on a second line from Zimbabwe to Maputo which passes through

South Africa.

Their exports will not only avoid

South Africa but will be using the shortest and cheapest route to the sea.

## Dublin, London at loggerheads over Northern Ireland accord

By Paul Majendie

Reuter

BELFAST — Almost two years after signing an agreement that sought to end Northern Ireland's cycle of violence, London and Dublin are at loggerheads over the fine print of the accord.

Britain wants Ireland to implement a new extradition bill while the Dublin government is keen to see Northern Ireland's legal system reformed so that the Catholic minority has more confidence in it.

In November 1985, the two governments signed a landmark accord that gave Dublin a limited say in the daily running of the strife-torn British province where Irish nationalist guerrillas are battling to oust the British and unite North and South.

Almost 24 months later, the sectarian and political killings still go on with the death toll of 74 so far this year being the highest casualty figure since 1983.

But under the basic framework of the accord, ministers from both sides meet regularly to deal with contentious issues like cross-border security and Northern Ireland's one-judge, no-jury courts.

Now, the accord faces a critical test as Dublin becomes increasingly volatile in its demands for a long, hard look at the North's justice system and London starts to ring alarm bells about the Irish extradition bill, due to be implemented on Dec. 1.

Britain wants to see the removal of existing ambiguities in the Irish law which prevent the extradition of someone who reasons that he was politically motivated.

A line of argument successfully adopted in the past by some suspected Irish nationalist guerrillas.

All Irish opposition parties have urged delaying implementation of the bill until Britain reforms the North's justice system and moves may well be launched to postpone it when the Dublin parliament reconvenes later this month.

The 1985 accord was signed by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Irish leader Garret Fitzgerald who recently accused her of breaking faith over court reform, a key issue underlying the agreement.

Fitzgerald has since been placed by diehard Republican Charles Haughey who expressed reservations about the accord when in opposition but has since pledged to work it.

King argued, "even if we did not have the Anglo-Irish agreement, terrorists should not be able to escape retribution by treating their crimes as a political offence."

Reiterating his refusal to abolish Northern Ireland's one-judge courts for trying terrorist offences, King said the end of the so-called "supergrass" informer trials — trials based solely on the

evidence of informants turned prosecution witnesses — and shorter remand time for detainees had helped to improve public confidence in the administration of justice.

Northern Ireland's one-million-strong Protestant majority were implacably opposed to the Anglo-Irish accord, seeing it as a British government sell-out on the road to unification with the Irish Republic.

Their hardline leaders launched a campaign of street protests, parliamentary boycotts and strikes, but that ran out of steam this year when they decided to start cautiously having "talks about talks" with King again.

Moderate politicians representing the 500,000-strong Catholic minority have said they are ready to discuss some form of power-sharing in a devolved, localised system of government in Northern Ireland, a prime aim of the accord.

Last weekend, their religious leader also entered the political fray when Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich, primate of all-Ireland, said the North's Catholics would feel betrayed if Dublin passed a new extradition bill without winning any changes in the North's justice system.

Irish Foreign Minister Brian

Leighnigh agreed on his return last

weekend from a trip to the U.S. that the extradition question and the courts reform campaign were linked.

He promised that changes to

the legal system would be high on

the agenda when he meets Britian's Northern Ireland Secretary

Tom King later this month.

King, back in Belfast this week

## Lack of proper education threatens identity

By Najwa Najjar

AMMAN — Instead of going to school on Sept. 1, Palestinian students and their teachers, living in proper Palestine headed for a demonstration in front of the Israeli ministry of education against the substandard conditions in the Arab sector schools, informed sources and observers here noted.

Over 230,000 Arab students observed a one day strike to draw attention to the shortage of classrooms and teachers, and inadequate equipment and services in their schools. The Arab local councils leaders, who called the strike, threatened to bring 50,000 Arab students to demonstrate in Jerusalem in November if the Israeli authorities failed to take up proposals for improving the Arab sector's education system, the sources all requesting anonymity.

There have been no changes in the Arab education system since 1952. The system remains far from reaching the bare minimum necessary to prepare Palestinian students in any way for the future. Overall the Arab education system operates in developing society while the Jewish system operates in a more modern and developed society.

One of the protest's main complaints is the sad state of classrooms. As a rule 40 students are usually crammed into poorly lit classrooms designed for only 26 students. Often the rooms are without windows or doors. The additional classrooms the Israeli authorities rent are not any better as they are usually rundown rooms located far from the main school building.

The lack of facilities on the school premises include the lack of necessities such as bathrooms. If there are bathrooms the smell of sewer and the nonfunctional toilets nauseate both students and teachers. Laboratories to conduct scientific experiments are non-existent in most cases, as are modern teaching aids such as audio-visual equipment, tools, computers and other electronic and technical apparatus.

Since the Palestinians are not recognised as a national minority the education goals do not include national guidance. The Arabic language and literature curriculum does not include present day national material, but only extracts from classical Arabic literature. Textbooks do not contain national poems and works of Palestinian poets or writers.

However, the curriculum does include material linking Jews in diaspora to the "land of Israel," the Zionist movement, Jewish immigration into Palestine and the revival of the Hebrew language. Palestinian high school students spend more hours studying the Jewish Torah than their own scriptures, and answer matriculation examinations on chapters from the Torah.

Similarly there is a general shortage of Arab teachers resulting in a higher student-teacher ratio. Over 4,000 teachers are needed. However, with the Israeli government's proposed cuts in the education budget over 400 Arab teachers are expected to be dismissed.

The department for Arab education at the Israeli ministry of education does not draw up its

Presently there is no staff (or facilities) to cater to the special requirements of slow learners. They are taught in regular classrooms, together with bright pupils and the rest of the youngsters. Another serious shortage is counselling services for the students. Apart from Nazareth there is no psychological counselling service in the Arab sector.

In addition, not only are the Arab teachers' salaries half those of Jewish teachers, they do not receive any of the incentives that Jewish teachers get, such as tax reduction and various forms of material support.

Although 40 per cent of the Palestinian university graduates are teachers, educated Arabs are kept out of senior posts in the Arab education system. The system is managed by the Israeli authorities; the wages for the teachers and other personnel are paid by these authorities; and the curriculum is also determined by them.

A stepped up building programme, and technology programmes comparable to those available in Jewish schools, are not the Arab leaders' only demands. They are asking for an Arab history and culture curriculum comparable to that offered to Jewish students: Jewish history, the Bible and related subjects.

Arab history and literature have, as far as possible, been emptied by the responsible occupation authorities of any national element. Broad portions of Arab history are not taught at all, and the number of hours devoted to the study of history are limited. Arab teachers are forced to use outdated books, some which still claim Libya as a monarchy.

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The Israeli authorities' responsible bodies, which control the department for Arab education, allocates the minimum necessary for the continued existence of education in Arab villages.

The department for Arab education at the Israeli ministry of education does not draw up its



Palestinian students crammed in a run-down classroom at a school in northern Palestine.

budget according to its needs and does it supervise the allocation and implementation of the funds. Rather the Israeli responsible body allocates the funds to the department in an arbitrary manner, not on the basis of quantitative and objective criteria.

The Arab education committee, part of the department for Arab education, estimates that there are some 860 rented temporary classrooms and 428 school rooms that were not designated as classrooms being used in Arab schools, compared to 142 rented classrooms in the Jewish sector.

To replace the present unsatisfactory accommodation and cater for future needs, 1,400 rooms for regular studies, and 2,000 rooms for technological, scientific and other specialised subjects are needed.

Although the Israeli authorities have labelled 740 classrooms "unsuitable for their present use" and have pledged to construct 122 new classrooms, appoint four psychological counsellors and open three classes for outstanding

students, the proposed cuts in the education budget have diminished prospects for any change in the situation.

Additional cuts will mean worsening conditions for the Arab schools. Generally both Arab and Jewish municipalities depend on the education ministry for money to build new school classrooms. While Jewish schools have the option of turning to organisations in Israel and abroad to raise the additional funds, the Palestinians living inside the "state" are denied this option.

The net result of poor facilities, deteriorating conditions, shortages of teachers and equipment, an outdated and unbalanced curriculum have shown not to be conducive to motivating a child to better himself through the education system and discourages a child from even staying at school to continue his or her education.

Statistics indicate that 20 per cent of Arab school children left school before the sixth grade; 40 per cent failed to complete the 10th grade; matriculation success rate among Arab students was around 30 per cent, but they only represent 5 per cent of Israel's university students.

Mon. — Oct. 12, 1987

8:30 Kate and Allie  
Lovely Rita

9:10 Falcon Crest

10:20 Tusatula  
Mini-series

And thus began their last tempestuous years, in the sanctuary of Western Samoa, where they settled and became embroiled in the politics of this Polynesian paradise. Stevenson sided with the Samoans in their confused attempts at self determination, and he tangled bitterly with the British Consul and other authorities. Attempts were made to deport him. He and Fanny were caught up in a savage war between the Samoan factions.

Tue. — Oct. 13, 1987

8:30 Brush Strokes

9:10 Remington Steele

JTV Channel 2 Preview  
Sat. — Oct. 10, 1987  
8:30 Just Good Friends

9:00 Variety Show

10:20 Feature Film  
The Proud Rebel

Starring:  
Alan Ladd  
Olivier De Havilland  
David Ladd

Touching story of a civil war veteran and his mute son who go to work for a farm woman as the father hopes to find a doctor who can cure the boy's affliction.

Sun. — Oct. 11, 1987  
8:30 Charles in Charge  
Mama Mia

9:10 Doc. — The Story of  
Fashion

Programme One  
Remembrance of Things Past  
The Beginnings: Charles Worth to  
Chanel

This programme begins by looking back in time to the roots of twentieth century fashion, and in particular at the life and work of Charles Worth, the Englishman who invented Parisian haute couture in the middle years of the nineteenth century. Charles Worth's customers were those brilliantly plumed beauties of the Second Empire, led by Worth's most famous client, the Empress Eugenie. Winterhalter painted the Empress, Elizabeth of Austria and Princess Pauline Metternich, wreathed in tuffed and gaused crinolines — symbols of the vast new wealth created by the industrialisation of Europe. The film looks at these first fashion models of the original 'couture' clothes.

Wed. — Oct. 14, 1987

8:30 Valerie  
Never on Tuesday

9:10 Doc. — Horses

10:20 Dorothy L. Sayers  
Mysteries

11:10 Howard Confessions

Thur. — Oct. 15, 1987

8:30 Life's Most Embarrassing  
Moments

9:30 Indelible Evidence  
Windfall

When William Craig — a part-time member of Northern Ireland's security forces — was shot dead in a burst of automatic gunfire, the only clue found at the scene of the crime was a half-eaten apple. From the teeth-marks, a professor of dentistry was able to build up a detailed description of the man who had bitten the apple, including his facial features, height and body build. The investigating officer dismissed the description as a "fairy tale". Events were to prove him wrong.

10:20 Feature Film  
Pals

Starring:  
George C. Scott  
Dan Arneche  
Sylvia Syms

Fri. — Oct. 16, 1987

8:30 Late Expectations

9:10 Against The Wind

10:20 Supertrain  
Hail to the Chief

Starring:  
Roy Thinnes  
Loretta Swit  
Billy Barty  
Scott Brady

The leading Presidential candidate is kidnapped aboard Supertrain. And masquerading in his place? ... his con-artist twin brother. But the plot goes awry when the twin brother falls for his sister-in-law... and also realises that any change in plans could result in a murderous frenzy.

## PIANIST TO PRESENT BENEFIT PERFORMANCE FOR AL HUSSEIN SOCIETY

AMMAN — The Ambassador Foundation will present a benefit performance for the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped on Monday, Oct. 12 and Tuesday, Oct. 13 at the Philadelphia Cinema Theatre.

At 8 p.m. on both nights, the Foundation will present David Michael Bilowus, an accomplished and award-winning American pianist who has performed in several major halls in America and Canada. Ticket sales for both performances will be at the door at the facility in the Tower Building on Prince Mohammad Street in Amman. Bilowus previously performed in a series of well-received sold-out concerts presented by the Foundation in Amman in 1985.

The two October performances will feature works by Scarlatti, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Liszt and Gottschalk. Bilowus will also present one original composition, "Forms of the Ocean."

The Ambassador Foundation, a humanitarian educational and cultural institution, promotes understanding between diverse cultures and nations and strives to improve the quality of life for peoples throughout the world. The Foundation's chairman, Joseph W. Tkach, took part in a private meeting with His Majesty King Hussein in February, 1987.

## About the Artist . . .

David Michael Bilowus is a Faculty Assistant in the Music Department of Ambassador College in Pasadena, California. He is a gifted singer (bass-baritone) and composer as well as an accomplished solo pianist and accompanist.

He holds a masters degree in piano and a bachelor of fine arts in voice from the University of Buffalo, New York. He has also studied at the Eastman School of Music and Chautauqua Music Institute and he has taught piano at the University of Buffalo.

David Michael has given solo performances with the Buffalo Pops Orchestra and numerous chamber music recitals in the western New York region. He also has performed in Los Angeles, Paris, and Lvov, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.



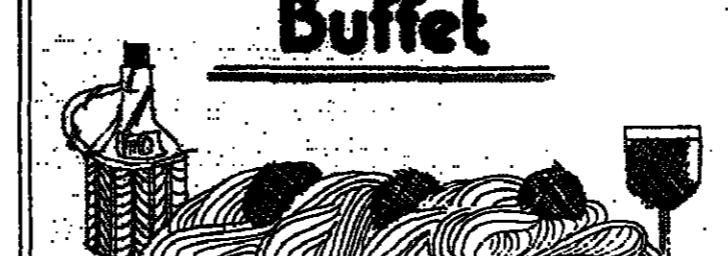
In March 1983, he was honoured with the "scroll," the highest award from the Niagara Frontier Folk Art Council.

In September 1985, David was invited to give his first piano recital in Amman, Jordan, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Raad Ben Zaid.



## Come Taste Our "ITALIAN"

### Buffet



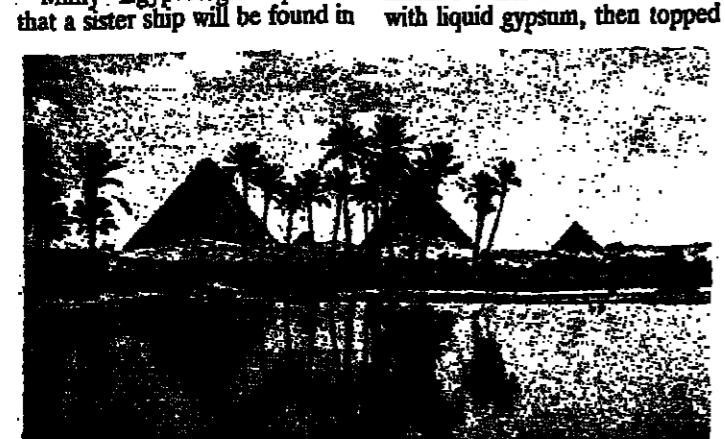
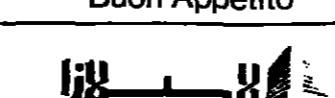
THE COFFEE SHOP

Every Saturday

Enjoy authentic homemade ITALIAN cuisine, prepared and served with ITALIAN flair.

Treat yourself to tantalizing pasta and other specialities.

Buon Appetito



The Pyramids — a continuous challenge to scientists

## Cricket World Cup roundup

# Aussies outfinish Indians; Brits destroy West Indies

MADRAS, India (Agencies) — Australia edged powerful India on Friday defeating the cricket champions by one run in a photo-finish end while England defeated West Indies in opening matches of the World Cup series.

Australia's victory came with one ball remaining and India needing two runs to win.

But medium-pacer Stephen Waugh bowled out the last Indian batsman, Maninder Singh, with the fifth delivery.

"I am very, very happy... it was a fantastic victory," said Australian manager Allan Crompton. "This is cricket, real cricket, cricket at its best," he said after the victory.

Indian captain Kapil Dev said his team may have been over confident when it ran up 100 runs in 82 minutes off 18.5 overs.

"Probably the initial run rate had given us hope, which proved fatal at the end," he said.

Geoff Marsh, whose 110 made the Australian victory possible, was named the man of the match.

It was Australia's lowest margin of victory in one-day international play. The Aussies had won by two runs against England at Birmingham in 1981.

An Indian spectator had quietly concealed a banner he was carrying in anticipation of an Indian victory. "We have given them victory again," it said.

Put to bat first by Dev who won the toss, the Australians scored 270 for six wickets off 50 overs.

The Indians were all out for 269 in 49.5 overs.

The day had started warm and humid and with the pitch freshened by an overnight shower, Kapil Dev put Australia in when he won the toss.

It was a decision that pleased no one more than Australian opener Geoff Marsh who batted for all but five of his side's overs to make an admirable 110, his third century in one-day interna-

tionals — all of them against India.

Marsh scored his runs from 132 balls with seven fours and a six and laid the foundation of Australia's highest one-day total in an opening stand of 110 with David Boon who made 49.

Marsh also received useful support from Jones and Allan Border although the Australian captain was lucky to last as long as he did having looked lucky to survive a stunning appeal off Ravi Shastri.

The Indian bowling, dreadfully

wayward to start with, became more combative once spinners Maninder Singh and Shastri were introduced.

The quicker bowlers, Kapil Dev and Manoj Prabhakar, tightened up when they returned but Roger Binny, one of the heroes of India's 1983 World Cup triumph, had a wretched day and was not called on to bowl again after his first seven overs yielded 46 runs.

The "little master" Sunil Gavaskar, Indian hero K. Srikanth and 22-year-old Navjot Sidhu, playing only in his second one-day game, set a brisk run rate and gave the Indians their early

lead.

Hurricane knocks of 70 by Srikanth and 73 by Sidhu, who struck five sixes, brought India to 207 for three.

Sidhu's ouster started the Indian stamp, with Craig McDermott returning a brilliant secondspell

in which he claimed four wickets.

After scoring his century, Marsh said: "I am thrilled, but exhausted by the heat and my century."

Confusion in which a straight

lift by Dean Jones was first declared a six, then a four, then a six again seems to have made all the difference in the end. Without the extra two runs awarded at the end of the Australian innings, the visitors' score would have been 268.

The Australian victory was their 79th in 177 one-day internationals since they played their first limited over game against England in 1970-71.

The Friday match was the 29th against India. The Aussies have won 16, lost 10 and three were abandoned.

In Gujranwala, Pakistan, England, needing 244 runs in 50 overs, won their first pool B match of the fourth World Cup cricket tournament.

England opened their innings through Graham Gooch and Chris Broad.

Patrick Patterson and Courtney Walsh opened the West Indian

attack.

Need to score at least 4.87 runs an over, England lost two early wickets, those of Broad and Tim Robinson for 40 runs.

West Indian pacemen Walsh, Patterson and Winston Benjamin kept England batsmen in check within just about three runs an over. Gooch and Skipper Gatting braved the West Indian pace to carry the score to 98 when Gatting was clean bowled by Carl Hooper after making 25.

When 25 overs were completed England was 95 for 2, same as that of West Indies. England lost another quick wicket when Gooch was dismissed by Hooper for 39. After two quick setbacks England's scoring rate fell considerably and after 30 overs they needed 141 runs at 7 runs per over.

England faced another setback when Derek Pringle was magnificently caught by Best off Hooper. England had now lost five wickets for just 123 runs with 16 overs remaining to make 121 runs.

Their troubles were compounded when Paul Downton tried to take a run which was not there and was run out. England were now reeling at 131 for 6 in the 37th over. When John Emburey was bowled by Patterson after his 22, England's hopes of a comeback in the match had all but faded.

But first Lamb and Defreitas, then Lamb and Foster pulled their side out of trouble with courage and resilience. England

needed 13 runs to win.

Courtney Walsh bowling the last over was pulled on the long on position by Lamb for a four which was collected by Dujon failed to collect the next ball conceding another boundary.

Walsh conceded a no ball and a wide in the over and Foster took 4 runs on the third ball to snatch victory.

It was only the third defeat in 19 World Cup matches for West Indies, who won the trophy unbeaten in 1975 and 1979 but lost twice to India four years ago, once in a group match and in the final.

England lost Chris Broad for three, hanging out his bat to Courtney Walsh, and Tim Robinson, coming in at number three, was needlessly run out for 12.

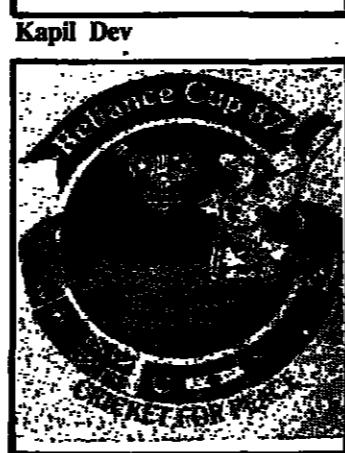
This made England 40 for two and brought together Gooch and Gatting. For a while this pair appeared to be gaining control as each stroked powerful fours.

But then Hooper struck, removing both Gooch and Gatting and then having Pringle caught, and England became bogged down. Downton was run out by half the length of the pitch after Lamb refused his call and England were 131 for six, still 113 runs from victory with less than 14 overs remaining.

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## European soccer roundup

# Juventus looks to Rush inspiration

JUVENTUS, languishing in ninth position in the first division with four points from four games, have a chance to recover some ground on Sunday when they meet Italian soccer league and Klaus Allofs was expected to weigh heavy but Lattek has succeeded in persuading the team to believe in themselves. The return of Pierre Litbarski from France and the signing of national stopper Juergen Kohler to shore up a leaky defence have also worked wonders.

Second-placed Werder Bremen are at home to Nuremberg while Bayern, fourth but only two points behind Cologne, travel to Karlsruhe.

Liverpool will meet Everton in the third round of the English soccer league cup later this month.

The draw, made on Thursday, also pits holders Arsenal against second division Bournemouth, who put out Southampton in the second round.

Diego Maradona's Napoli, who scraped a late 1-0 victory over Avellino last Sunday, tackle newly-promoted Pescara in Naples' San Paolo Stadium.

The Argentine has been under fire for his apparent failure to meet the Napoli fans' wild expectations and will be keen to shun criticism of being overweight and with his heart no longer in the game.

Pescara have enjoyed an unexpectedly successful start to the season but they will be without key Brazilian striker Junior who is suspended after being sent off last week.

Florentina, the only other unbeaten team in the first division, meet Avellino at home while AC Milan travel to Sampdoria for what promises to be a soccer treat between two of the most stylish teams in the league.

In West Germany, a dirty blue pullover has attracted more attention than anything happening on the field.

Cologne's technical director Udo Lattek has revealed a pre-season vow not to wash his light blue sweater, which he wears at matches, until his team lose.

The pullover has not seen the

inside of a washing machine for more than two months as Cologne continue an unbeaten run which has taken them to the top of the table.

Cologne — and Lattek's sweater — receive third-placed Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday, a side capable of taking anyone to the cleaners. Two weeks ago they put eight past Hamburg SV.

Since Lattek moved from Bayern Munich this summer, Cologne have been almost unrecognisable.

The loss of Toni Schumacher

# Egypt, Cameroun, Nigeria clash in African Cup finals

RABAT (R) — African soccer giants Egypt, Cameroun and Nigeria will clash for two places in the semi-finals with all African games finalists Kenya in the African Nations Cup soccer finals in Morocco next year.

In the draw for the March finals announced by the African Football Confederation, the four teams are bunched in Group B, playing in Rabat.

Zaire will be rank outsiders in the group.

The full draw is:

Group A (to be played in Casablanca)

March 13 — Morocco V Zaire,

Ivory Coast V Algeria

March 16 — Zaire V Ivory Coast,

March 19 — Zaire V Algeria,

Ivory Coast V Morocco

Group B (to be played in Rabat)

March 14 — Egypt V Cameroun, Nigeria V Kenya

March 20 — Cameroun V Kenya, Egypt V Nigeria

Finals — March 27 (Casablanca)

Nigeria's Youth Players are among the best in the world and

## AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE OCT. 9 TOTS

Jordan Express 0

vs Wang 0

**JUNIORS**

Butterfly Tea 3

vs Nashashibi/Ebbini 0

Danish Dairy 0

vs Mercedes Benz 1

Westinghouse 2

vs Jordan Worsted Mills 5

**MIDS**

Dorma 7

vs Intercontinental Hotel 1

Cairo Amman Bank 3

vs Furukawa 0

Eagle Engineering 2

vs Istikial 1

**SENIORS**

Al-Ahlyah 3

vs Samar 1

Ericsson 5

vs Volvo 0

The ties are to be played during the week beginning Oct. 26.

Struggling West Ham are the latest London first division club to be linked with Terry Venables, the former Barcelona coach.

Venables has strong London

roots, but when it comes to managers, West Ham, with only five in their 87-year history, are a law unto themselves.

Renewed calls for the dismissal

of current incumbent, the affable John Lyall, were heard at Upton Park on Tuesday night when West Ham were dumped out of the league cup, beaten 4-2 by second division Barnsley, after leading 2-0.

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## Arap Moi assails 'crooked' Asians, Kenyans

NAIROBI (R) — Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi has accused government employees of colluding with Asian businessmen in a multi-million dollar foreign exchange racket.

"I don't want anybody to say that I hate Asians, but some Asians are extremely crooked."

They are assisted by African civil servants who are also crooked," President Moi said in a speech.

President Moi said the government had recovered 150 million shillings (\$9 million) of the 600 million shillings (\$36 million) involved in a foreign exchange swindle uncovered last month.

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6500/10	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3060/70	Canadian dollar
	1.8135/45	West German marks
	2.0405/15	Dutch guilders
	1.5080/90	Swiss francs
	37.72/77	Belgian francs
	6.0475/0575	French francs
	1309/1310	Italian lira
	143.85/95	Japanese yen
	6.3725/75	Swedish crowns
	6.6300/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.9550/9600	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	462.00/462.50	U.S. dollars

### LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were easier in quiet afternoon business here, with prices again following the opening fluctuations on Wall Street in early business there.

By 1412 GMT Friday, the FTSE 100 index was down 21.5 points to 2,354 after a low of 2,349.4 which was touched about 30 minutes after Friday's lower opening on Wall Street.

Dealers said Thursday's fall in the New York market helped keep buyers out of the market Friday morning and prices drifted for want of interest as the account drew to a close.

The overnight clash between U.S. helicopters and Iranian gunboats in the Gulf was a negative background factor.

Dealers here are still confident that fundamentals underpinning the U.K. market remain intact. Friday's U.K. retail price indicator of inflation in September showed a year-on-year rise of 4.2 per cent down from the 4.4 per cent rise scored in August.

Analysts said Friday's data supported recent official U.K. forecasts that inflation would dip below four per cent by the end of 1987. On Thursday Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson forecast four per cent U.K. economic growth in 1987.

Dealers pointed out London's resilience to the week's falls on Wall Street, noting that the FTSE 100 lost 22 points since last Friday's close, compared to the 126 point fall in the Dow Jones.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1987

### YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

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**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A usually stubborn association will see things your way for a change. Tonight is a perfect time for romance with your mate.

**ARIES** (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) If a newcomer comes into your life, be prepared to listen to new ideas, but reject those which you don't feel are plausible or desirable.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 20 to May 20) See some old friends today during your spare time but don't neglect your urgent duties. Try to be more efficient in your routine.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 21) Be helpful and affectionate to your mate and watch your budget carefully. Take it easy and get plenty of rest tonight.

**MOON CHILDREN** (June 22 to Jul. 21) Handle all of your practical affairs during the day, but reserve the evening for your loved one. Be sure to drive carefully.

**LEO** (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Handle civic matters this morning, and the evening will be fine for more intimate matters. Watch your financial situation carefully.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) See an important person who can give you the assistance you need — both material and moral — to get a new project under way.

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Lhasa calm in tight police grip

CHENGDU, China (Agencies) — Lhasa was calm on Friday but armed police continued to seal off nearby Buddhist monasteries which are centres of support for Tibetan separatism, travellers arriving here said Friday.

As a midnight expulsion deadline approached for all foreign journalists in Tibet and telecommunications with Lhasa remained cut, Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama appealed to world leaders to help end "Chinese suppression."

"China must attempt to solve the basic Tibetan issue," said a message sent to heads of government and political leaders from the Dalai Lama's exile home in Dharamsala, northern India.

"Further suppression will only worsen the situation," he added, according to his office in New Delhi.

He underlined his insistence on non-violent protests, saying: "Violence from any section is never a solution to any problem."

However, the Dalai Lama's number two in the Tibetan Buddhist hierarchy issued a warning against further unrest.

In China's official People's Daily, the Panchen Lama said the riots, which have killed six people by official count, could undo Tibet's economic gains of the last few years.

The Panchen Lama, who is also a senior Chinese government official, said most Tibetans and Buddhist monks opposed the separatists and the disturbances, at the height of which last week rioters burned down a Lhasa police station.

Unofficial estimates put the death toll as high as 19 in that night.

The official media have said the situation in Lhasa has returned to normal but the government has ordered all foreign journalists to get out of Tibet by midnight on Friday.

Foreign journalists in Lhasa have been barred from phoning or telexing news about the unrest.

Local officials delivered the expulsion to 14 reporters shortly after midnight Wednesday, following a day in which heavily-armed police riding trucks patrolled by the Tibetan capital of Lhasa to stifle further pro-independence demonstrations.

## Nobel panel reaches verdict on peace prize winner

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — The committee deciding the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize said on Thursday it had reached its decision, but had not yet selected a winner for the literature prize.

Jakob Sverdrup, director of the Nobel Institute in Oslo, told reporters: "The prize committee has reached a decision."

But the identity of the peace prize winner will remain a closely-guarded secret until the official announcement next Tuesday.

Committee sources said earlier four main candidates were being considered — Philippine President Corazon Aquino, Argentine

## Indian troops battle Sri Lankan rebels in security crack-down

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Indian troops fought gunbattles with Tamil groups in Sri Lanka on Friday as they swept into their camps to seize arms and militants, the government said.

A government spokesman said the troops arrested 98 Tamil militants in raids across the north and east of the island as they moved to cut off violence that has killed some 180 people in the past three days.

"In the course of the operations the Indian peacekeeping force was fired on and returned the fire," the spokesman said.

He was unable to say if there were any casualties in the shooting incidents.

The state-owned All-India Radio earlier said Indian troops occupied several bases of the Tamil Tigers (LTTE) and seized Tamil Eelam (LTE) and seized large quantities of weapons.

However, the government spokesman was unable to confirm this.

The LTTE earlier this week repudiated a ceasefire under an Indo-Sri Lankan peace pact of

The LTTE, the largest Tamil rebel group, said its leader was

among those detained in the raids around the northern city of Jaffna.

There was no confirmation of the report that Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and his chief deputy was among those seized.

In Colombo meanwhile, a bomb killed two people and wounded six at the office of a government-backed labour council.

No one claimed responsibility for the bombing at the office of the National Workers Union in Colombo, but a senior police official said it appeared to be the work of a Sinhalese extremist group, the People's Liberation Front.

The front, a Marxist group known as the JVP from its Sinhalese name, has accused the Sinhalese-led government of making too many concessions to the minority Tamils in the Indian-sponsored peace plan.

"To me, it looks like the activity of the JVP," said Neil Weerasinghe, deputy inspector general of police. But he added: "We are keeping an open mind."

He declared Fiji a republic on Wednesday, severing the country's 113-year link to the British throne.

The swearing-in ceremony of the new council on Friday inside a British colonial bungalow on the grounds of the governor-general's official residence cemented the Fijian republic in the Commonwealth.

Diplomatic sources in Suva said Mr. Mara was trying to preserve something of his country's bond with the British crown.

Ceiling fans rotated gently in the tropical heat as the councilors, dressed in traditional wraparound skirts, took oaths on

## Aquino names new foreign secretary; U.S. plays down reported link with rebel leader

MANILA (Agencies) — President Corazon Aquino announced Friday she has nominated veteran Senator Paul Manglapus as the new foreign affairs secretary to add "dedication and experience" to her embattled government.

Mr. Manglapus, 68, lived nearly 14 years in the United States during the rule of ousted President Ferdinand Marcos and returned to Manila after Mrs. Aquino took office last year.

Mr. Manglapus was under-secretary of foreign affairs under former President Carlos Garcia between 1954 and 1957.

Mr. Manglapus, chairman of the senate's national defence and science and technology committee, returned to the Philippines last year from the United States. He left Manila just before Marcos clamped martial law on the

country.

The foreign secretary's post fell vacant on Sept. 16 when Salvador Laurel, who remains vice president, resigned from the cabinet following sharp differences with Mrs. Aquino over her handling of the country's communist insurgency.

The U.S. ambassador on Friday affirmed support for Mrs. Aquino despite allegations that a right-wing military renegade officer used a U.S. base to denounce the president.

In Cebu City, 560 kilometres south of Manila, Ambassador Nicholas Platt told a civic group that U.S. support for Mrs. Aquino was "absolutely steadfast."

Mr. Platt refused to discuss press reports that renegade Col.

Col. Cabauatan had sought in connection with the January coup attempt, said he would soon launch a "rescue operation."

Reporters said they were driven to the meeting through the main gate of the base, then blindfolded until they were inside a building where Col. Cabauatan appeared.

Some reporters said they were unsure whether they were driven off the base before meeting Col. Cabauatan. After the meeting, the reporters were blindfolded and driven on a circuitous route before being dropped off outside the main Clark gate.

Col. Cabauatan held a press conference this week with five Filipino reporters at Clark air base, a giant U.S.-run facility 80 kilometres north of Manila.

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